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ABSTRACT

This book introduces preservice art educators to the power of art in creating meaning. Each chapter emphasizes different aspects of art education, identifies concepts and research, and outlines the advantages and challenges of making the suggested choices. Part 1, "Teacher as Choice Maker," includes two chapters. Chapter 1 invites readers to examine why they might choose to become art teachers. Chapter 2 examines learners through a developmental perspective and discusses why it is so important to have a clear understanding of students. Part 2, "Choices for Creating Meaning," offers chapters 3-8, which introduce a range of choices for creating meaning. Chapter 3 looks at ways to cultivate artistic behaviors and find meaning through making art. Chapter 4 recommends engaging learners with art images so they can create personal meaning through the experience. Chapter 5 highlights the importance of storytelling and creating a partnership between visual and verbal expression. Chapter 6 discusses choosing to use artistic strategies to make thoughts visible and accommodate a broader range of learning styles. Chapter 7 describes how to shape elegant problems that promote meaningful visual thinking and creative thought. Chapter 8 offers insights on designing units that make conceptual connections across the curriculum through a thematic focus that fosters teaching for meaning. Part 3, "Artful Teaching," revisits ideas introduced in all chapters. Chapter 9 suggests the metaphor of teacher as artist. Various definitions of teaching as an art form are shared. (SM)

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